

Georgia insight

Sue Ella Deadwyler
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“She hath done what she could.”
Mark 14:8a
“...and having done all ... stand.”
Ephesians 6:13c

“Extra-Inning” Special Session to Redraw Districts Psst! They Can Pass Other Bills, too!

The *Constitution of the State of Georgia* authorizes the governor to convene a special session by issuing a proclamation, citing its purpose, and setting the time and date for it to commence.

At the end of each decade, when the Census tallies are available, the General Assembly must equally divide the state population into 180 State House Districts, 56 State Senate Districts and 14 U.S. Congressional Districts. Districts are re-drawn to adjust for population changes during the past decade and meet the constitutional requirement of equal representation for everyone. Since the Census Bureau has indicated additional information will be sent in August, Georgia’s special session is expected to convene in September. So, consider what happened a decade ago.

2011 Governor Deal’s Call: On August 10, 2011 Governor Nathan Deal, joined by House Speaker David Ralston and Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, issued a proclamation and letter, calling for the 2011 special session to convene Monday, August 15, at 10 a.m. (a) to redraw district maps for the Georgia House, Georgia Senate and U.S. Congress, (b) make technical changes to the 2012 TSPLOST referendum and (c) ratify the governor’s gasoline tax rate freeze.

2011 Special Session: By August 31, 2011, the House had introduced 64 bills and the Senate had introduced 10 bills, some of which drew new district lines for local boards of education and county commissions. When the session ended the first week of September, 2011, it was dubbed, “The shortest special session in Georgia history,” as well as, “The most transparent and inclusive re-drawing of Georgia’s political boundaries in modern history.” Among legislation that passed during that special session, Governor Deal signed the following:

H.B. 1EX Reapportion and Redraw Georgia’s 180 Districts for the House of Representatives
H.B. 2EX Limited Time Tax Exemption for Motor Fuel and Aviation Gasoline
H.B. 20EX Redistrict Congressional Maps for 14 Members of Congress (Increased from 13)
S.B. 1EX Composition and Number of State Senatorial Districts

I said all that to say this ...

1. After each Census, governors call a reapportionment and redistricting special session.
2. Georgia’s call is made by a proclamation explaining the agenda, which may be amended.
3. Governor Kemp’s agenda for the 2021 special session should include passage of laws that Prohibit Mandatory Vaccination for COVID-19 and Vaccine “Passports”

Prohibit teaching Critical Race Theory² (CRT) in public schools K-12 and higher learning

ACTION – Support the above. Contact the following leaders, as well as your representative and senator.

1. Ask the governor to add the above two issues to his redistricting/reapportionment special session agenda.
 2. Ask legislators to (a) prohibit mandatory COVID-19 vaccination and (b) prohibit CRT in pre-K – college, etc.
- Call Gov. Kemp, 404 656-1776; Lt. Gov. Duncan, 656-5030; Speaker Ralston, 656-5020; Senate President Pro Tem Miller, 656-6578; Governor’s Floor Leaders, Representatives LaRiccia, 651-7737; Lott, 651-7737; Reeves, 651-7737; Bonner, 656-0254; Senators Dixon, 656-7454; Goodman, 656-7454; Hatchett, 656-7454

¹ Governor Kemp’s EO of May 25, 2021 prohibits vaccine passports and different rules and regulations based vaccination in state and agency government. Therefore, vaccine passports must be prohibited in private entities, as well.

² The June 3, 2021 Board of Education resolution prohibiting CRT could be passed into law during the special session.

National Education Association (NEA) Philosophy and World View

Back to the Past – 1978

On June 9, 1978 *Freeman Digest* Editor Michael Chadwick – publishing NEA’s resolutions and legislative agenda – entitled that issue’s page-one article, “Education for a New World Order.”

“NEA Support of Controversial Subjects”(The following explains NEA’s plans for schools in 1978.)
“Besides the open endorsement of political candidate NEA now *openly supports* (original italics) behavior modification, compulsory education from very early childhood, family planning, sex education, population control, a new global society, the Equal Rights Amendment, collective bargaining, decriminalization of marijuana, a national environmental policy, a national energy policy, secular humanism, a cabinet level office of education, the United Nations, student rights, federal day-care centers, public welfare, national health insurance, teacher strikes, school busing, planned program budgeting system, increased federal aid and control of education and Dr. Henry Steele Commanger’s Declaration of Interdependence.(NEA endorsed global dependence.)
“On the other hand, NEA *openly opposes* local control of public schools, local financing of public school, parental supervision of textbooks, Proposition-13-type legislation, and tuition tax credits.

“Needless to say, the above list of controversial issues is beginning to create a strain on NEA’s power structure, national influence, and control over its members.”

Freeman Digest, June 9, 1978 Issue, Page 29

“NEA Endorsement of Carter and Mondale” recounted the first time NEA endorsed a U.S. presidential candidate and, with NEA support, Jimmy Carter became the 39th president of the United States. He was elected January 20, 1977 and in October 1979 Congress passed the Department of Education Organization Act, which combined offices from several federal agencies into the Department of Education, which began operations in May 1980.

The history of the U.S. Department of Education began in 1867, when President Andrew Johnson signed a bill creating the first cabinet level DOE. However, it was down-graded “Due to concern that the Department would exercise too much control over local schools, the new Department was demoted to an Office of Education in 1868.” (source: online DOE site)

“Teachers – Agents of Change in Society” (original caption for quotes from NEA President Barrett)
“We will need to recognize that the so-called ‘basic skills,’ which currently represent nearly the total effort in elementary schools, will be taught in one quarter of the present school day. The remaining time will be devoted to what is truly fundamental and basic – time for academic inquiry, time for students to develop their own interest, time for a dialogue between students and teachers. When this happens – and it’s near – the teacher can rise to his true calling. More than a dispenser of information, the teacher will be a conveyor of values, a philosopher. Students will learn to write love letters and lab notes. We will help each child build his own rocket to his own moon.

“Finally, if our children are to be human beings who think clearly, feel deeply, and act wisely, we will answer definitely the question ‘Who should make what decisions?’ Teachers no longer will be victims of change; we will be agents of change.” (Evidence of that – NEA annual resolutions.)

2021: NEA Focus on Race, Social Justice, Police-free Schools & CRT

The annual conference of the National Education Association (NEA) Representative Assembly met, virtually, in 2020 and, virtually again, in 2021. This year, it was during June 30– July 3.

The focus of the 2021 NEA Representative Assembly was solidified when 88 percent of the attendees adopted New Business Item A, which outlined their strategy to “eradicate institutional racism in our public school system by establishing a task force that identifies the criteria for safe, just, and equitable schools, including exploring the role of law enforcement in education.”

New Business Item A – Task Force

NBI A outlines NEA’s multi-faceted strategy to transform school, while vigorously opposing opposition. NEA is asking teachers to actively oppose CRT (legal or illegal) by civil disobedience if necessary, and NEA will pay their attorney fees if they face charges.

Examples of Task Force Duties

1. Create safe, just, and equitable (same outcome for everyone) schools for all students
2. Study police-free school movements and police-free schools legislation (no security guard?)
3. Create common language, training/workshops, and opportunities to *take collective action*
4. Base funding advocacy on (a) race, income, local wealth, and (b) no-cost higher education
5. Fund racial justice training, implicit bias (subconscious discrimination), anti-racism, trauma-based strategy, restorative justice (social remedy for crime, no penalty), etc.
6. Get “transformative investments” for racially just (social justice) schools pre-K and thereafter
7. Eradicate racist laws, policies, and practices, over-criminalization of communities, students and families of Native people and people of color, as well as the criminalization of poverty

New Business Item 39, “Double-whammy” Implementation

NBI 39 (NEA support for CRT includes defending CRT teachers against local laws and parental opposition.)

- A.** Share and publicize information already available on critical race theory (CRT) – what it is and what it is not; provide a team of staffers for members who want to learn more and fight back against anti-CRT rhetoric. (Why is NEA so determined to “fight back” to implement CRT?)
- B.** Provide an already-created, in-depth, study critiquing empire, white (no capital) supremacy, anti-Blackness (original capitalized), anti-Indigeneity (original capitalized) (native), racism, patriarchy (male leaders), cisheteropatriarchy (white, straight men attracted to women), capitalism, ableism, anthropocentrism (belief that humans are the most significant entity in universe), and other forms of power and oppression. NEA, also, opposes attempts to ban CRT and/or *The 1619 Project*.
- C.** It is reasonable and appropriate for curriculum to be informed by academic frameworks for understanding and interpreting the impact of the past on current society, including CRT.
- D.** Join with Black Lives Matter at School and Zinn Education Project to call for an October 14 rally on George Floyd’s birthday, as a national day to teach lessons on structural racism and oppression – even where it is illegal and requires civil disobedience. Have additional days to honor others and NEA will widely publicize these National Days of Action to all its members.
- E.** Do a listening tour to educate members on tools like CRT to “defend honesty in education.”
- F.** NEA President Becky Pringle will make public statements in pro-CRT media.

ACTION – Oppose CRT. Ask the following to pass a bill prohibiting CRT in schools – pre-K and thereafter.

Call the Governor, 404 656-1776; Lt. Governor, 656-5030; Speaker, 656-5020; Senate President Pro Tem, 656-6578; Governor’s Floor Leaders, Representatives Dominic LaRiccica, 651-7737; Jodi Lott, 651-7737; Bert Reeves, 651-7737; Josh Bonner, 656-0254; Senators Clint Dixon, 656-7454; Russ Goodman, 656-7454; Bo Hatchett, 656-7454

“If I Were The Devil”

Paul Harvey Transcript – 1965

“If I were the devil . . . If I were the Prince of Darkness, I’d want to engulf the whole world in darkness. And I’d have a third of its real estate, and four-fifths of its population, but I wouldn’t be happy until I had seized the ripest apple on the tree — Thee. So I’d set about however necessary to take over the United States. I’d subvert the churches first — I’d begin with a campaign of whispers. With the wisdom of a serpent, I would whisper to you as I whispered to Eve: ‘Do as you please.’

“To the young, I would whisper that ‘The Bible is a myth.’ I would convince them that man created God instead of the other way around. I would confide that what’s bad is good, and what’s good is ‘square.’ And the old, I would teach to pray, after me, ‘Our Father, which art in Washington...’

“And then I’d get organized. I’d educate authors in how to make lurid literature exciting, so that anything else would appear dull and uninteresting. I’d threaten TV with dirtier movies and vice versa. I’d pedal narcotics to whom I could. I’d sell alcohol to ladies and gentlemen of distinction. I’d tranquilize the rest with pills.

“If I were the devil I’d soon have families at war with themselves, churches at war with themselves, and nations at war with themselves; until each in its turn was consumed. And with promises of higher ratings I’d have mesmerizing media fanning the flames. If I were the devil I would encourage schools to refine young intellects, but neglect to discipline emotions — just let those run wild, until before you knew it, you’d have to have drug sniffing dogs and metal detectors at every schoolhouse door.

“Within a decade I’d have prisons overflowing, I’d have judges promoting pornography — soon I could evict God from the courthouse, then from the schoolhouse, and then from the houses of Congress. And in His own churches I would substitute psychology for religion, and deify science. I would lure priests and pastors into misusing boys and girls, and church money. If I were the devil I’d make the symbols of Easter an egg and the symbol of Christmas a bottle.

“If I were the devil I’d take from those who have, and give to those who want until I had killed the incentive of the ambitious.

“And what do you bet I could get whole states to promote gambling as the way to get rich? I would caution against extremes and hard work in Patriotism, in moral conduct. I would convince the young that marriage is old-fashioned, that swinging is more fun, that what you see on the TV is the way to be. And thus, I could undress you in public, and I could lure you into bed with diseases for which there is no cure. In other words, if I were the devil I’d just keep right on doing what he’s doing.

“Paul Harvey, good day.”

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